

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration in view of the instant amendment and response. Claims 23-34 remain pending in the present application. Claims 23-34 are rejected.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 23-34 are rejected under the judicially created (nonstatutory) doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 16-22 of U.S. Patent No. 6,745,047. A terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 is being submitted concurrent with the instant response, thereby obviating the double patenting rejection.

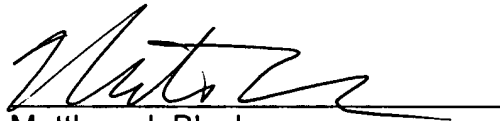
CONCLUSION

Based on the remarks presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 23-34 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: 2 Aug, 2006


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